

San Antonio, TX-Recently Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23) backed the passage of The Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act in the House of Representatives. The bill was signed into law by the President on September 30, 2008. Included in the bill was a provision providing \$22.9 billion for disaster relief activities in response to destruction caused by recent natural disasters in Texas including \$37.5 million secured by Rodriguez for United States and Mexico International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) construction projects.

Rodriguez said "The IWBC has estimated a cost of nearly \$50 million to completely repair Presidio's levees and I am proud to have been able to secure \$37.5 million in additional funds in order to get that job done quicker."

He continued "The flooding in Presidio and surrounding areas has seriously impacted the entire region. Emergency funds will go toward rebuilding the levees so that we can prevent future flooding along the Rio Grande."

The bill provides additional funding for the following directly related to disaster recovery including :

- \$8.36 billion for Homeland Security disaster relief activities, including nearly \$8 billion for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
- \$6.5 billion, for the Community Development Block Grant Program, which funds flexible grants to help cities, counties, and states recover from presidentially-declared disasters, especially in low-income areas
- \$498 million, for the Disaster Loans Program Account for direct loans to small businesses affected by recent natural disasters.